

4. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein R¹ represents C₁₋₆ alkyl or C₄₋₆ cycloalkyl when R¹ represents -A¹C(O)N(R⁴)R⁵.
5. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein R⁴ and R⁵ together represent pyrrolidinyl when R¹ represents A¹C(O)N(R⁴)R⁵.
6. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 2, wherein A¹ represents C₁₋₃ alkylene, and R⁴ represents H or C₁₋₃ alkyl and R⁵ represents C₂₋₆ alkyl or C₅₋₆ cycloalkyl, or R⁴ and R⁵ together represent pyrrolidinyl.
8. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in Claim 1, wherein R⁴ represents C₁₋₆ alkyl when R¹ represents -A¹C(O)OR⁴.
9. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in Claim 7, wherein A¹ represents C₁₋₅ alkylene and R⁴ represents C₁₋₄ alkyl.
11. (Amended) A compound as claimed in Claim 1, wherein R³ represents H, linear C₁₋₁₀ alkyl, branched C₃₋₁₀ alkyl, partially cyclic C₄₋₁₀ alkyl, C₄₋₁₀ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted linear C₁₋₃ alkylphenyl, optionally substituted branched C₃ alkylphenyl.
- 13.. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein R²

represents OH.

14. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein R⁶ represents optionally substituted phenyl or C₁₋₁₇ alkyl (which latter group may be linear or, when there are a sufficient number of carbon atoms, may be branched, be cyclic or partially cyclic, and/or be saturated or unsaturated) when R² represents OC(O)R⁶..

17. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein R⁷ represents optionally substituted phenyl, C₁₋₁₂ alkyl (which latter group is optionally substituted, may be linear or, when there are a sufficient number of carbon atoms, may be branched, cyclic or partially cyclic, and/or saturated or unsaturated), or C₁₋₃ alkylphenyl (which latter group is optionally substituted, may be linear or, when there are a sufficient number of carbon atoms, may be branched) when R² represents C(O)OR⁷.

20. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein R⁸ represents H or methyl, when R² represents C(O)OCH(R⁸)OC(O)R⁹.

21. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, wherein R⁹ represents phenyl, or C₁₋₈, alkyl (which latter group is optionally substituted, may be linear or, when there are a sufficient number of carbon atoms, may be branched and/or cyclic or partially cyclic) when R² represents C(O)OCH(R⁸)OC(O)R⁹.

A 6 CORRECTION -
22.. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 20 wherein R⁸ represents H or methyl and R⁹ represents phenyl, C₅₋₇ cycloalkyl, linear C₁₋₆ alkyl, branched C₃₋₆ alkyl or partially cyclic C₇₋₈ alkyl.

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24. (Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein, when R¹ represents R³ and R³ represents optionally substituted C₁₋₃ alkylphenyl, the optional substituent C₁₋₄ alkyl.

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26. (Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein, when R² represents C(O)OR⁷ and R⁷ represents optionally substituted C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, the optional substituent is selected from halogen and C₁₋₆ alkoxy..

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28. (Amended) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein, when R² represents C(O)OR⁷ and R⁷ represents optionally substituted phenyl, the optional substituent is selected from C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxy and halogen..

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30. (Amended) A compound as claimed in wherein when R² represents C(O)OR⁷ and R⁷ represents optionally substituted C₁₋₃ alkylphenyl, the optional substituent is nitro.

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39. (Amended) A pharmaceutical formulation including a compound of formula I

as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

40. (Amended) A compound of formula I, as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as a pharmaceutical.

41. (Amended) A compound of formula I as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required..

42.. (Amended) A compound of formula I as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of thrombosis.

43. (Amended) A compound of formula I as defined in claim 1 , or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use as an anticoagulant.

44.. (Amended) The use of a compound of formula I as defined in claim 1 , or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as active ingredient in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required.

46. (Amended) The use of a compound of formula I as defined in claim 1 , or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, as active ingredient in the manufacture of an

anticoagulant..

47. (Amended) A method of treatment of a condition where inhibition of thrombin is required which method comprises administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I as defined in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, to a person suffering from, or susceptible to, such a condition.